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CLAIMS

1. A parallel rule, comprising two component rules each providing one of two opposed parallel straight edges, and a linkage allowing relative movement of the rules in a direction orthogonal to the straight edges but prohibiting relative movement in a direction parallel to the straight edges, wherein at least one component rule has at least one through hole suitable to receive the point of a pencil so as to make a line of latitude or longitude on a chart, in use.

2. A parallel rule as claimed in claim 1, wherein both component rules have through holes in corresponding positions.

3. A parallel rule as claimed in claim 1 or 2, the linkage comprises an intermediate member connected to each component rule by a respective set of three links, two links in each set being pivotally connected to both the intermediate member and the component rule by pivots situated on corners of a variable parallelogram, the other link in each set being pivotally connected to the component rule and both pivotally and slidably connected to the intermediate member for sliding movement together, parallel to the straight edges.

4. A parallel rule as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the linkage comprises two links each pivotally connected to a respective component rule, each pivotally and slidably connected to the other component rule for sliding movement parallel to its straight edge and pivotally connected together between the component rules.

5. A parallel rule as claimed in any preceding claim, contained by a package, the package being so formed that at least part of the parallel rule is visible therethrough, and so that the component rules may be opened and closed.

6. A parallel rule as claimed in claim 5, wherein the package has an opening through which one of the component rules may be accessed, to open and close the component rules, whilst retaining the parallel rule in the package.

7. A parallel rule as claimed in claim 6, wherein each component rule is provided with a handle, and wherein the package is so formed as to restrain movement of one handle, the other handle projecting through the opening.

8. A parallel rule as claimed in any of claims 5 to 7, wherein the package is at least partly transparent.

9. A parallel rule as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein both component rules are provided on their undersides with a pair of spaced bosses, the bosses being of relatively low friction material, and between the bosses with at least one area of relatively high friction material, the bosses projecting further from the component rules than the high friction areas.

10. A parallel rule, comprising two component rules each providing one of two opposed parallel straight edges, and a linkage allowing relative movement of the rules in a direction orthogonal to the straight edges but prohibiting relative movement in a direction parallel to the straight edges, the parallel rule being contained by a package, the package being so formed that at least part of the parallel rule is visible therethrough, and so that the component rules may be opened and closed.

11 A parallel rule as claimed in claim 10, wherein the package has an opening through which one of the component rules may be accessed, to open and close the component rules, whilst retaining the parallel rule in the package.

12. A parallel rule as claimed in claim 11, wherein each component rule is provided with a handle, and wherein the package is so formed as to restrain movement of one handle, the other handle projecting through the opening.

13. A parallel rule as claimed in any of claims 10 to 12, wherein the package is at least partly transparent.

14. A parallel rule having two component rules so linked as to constrain them to remain parallel, wherein both component rules are provided on their undersides with a pair of spaced bosses, the bosses being of relatively low friction material, and between

the bosses with at least one area of relatively high friction material, the bosses projecting further from the component rules than the high friction areas.

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